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MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

RESOLUTION

TARIFFS

New Delhi, the 3rd September, 1954

No. 48(1)-T.B./54.—The Tariff Commission has submitted its report on the continuance of protection to the Electric Brass Lamp Holders Industry on the basis of an inquiry held by it under section 11(e) read with Sections 13 and 15 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951. Its recommendations are as follows:—

- (1) Protection to the industry should be continued for a further period of two years, i.e., till 31st December, 1956.
- (2) A protective duty at the standard rate of 31½ per cent. *ad valorem* should be levied on imported brass lamp holders, the preferential rate of duty being fixed in accordance with the terms of the Indo-British Trade Agreement, 1939.
- (3) Government should examine the possibility of developing the manufacture of those types of brass tubes and rods and brass sections in the country which are not available at present from indigenous sources.
- (4) If no serious administrative difficulties are involved, the request of the industry that, a separate item number for electric brass lamp holders should be allotted in the Import Trade Control Schedule, may be considered favourably by Government.
- (5) While negotiating trade agreements with foreign countries, Government should consider the inclusion of electric brass lamp holders in the schedule of items for export.
- (6) The Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta, should undertake an investigation into the problems of manufacture of insulators and suggest methods for ensuring uniformity of dimensions of insulators for adoption by the entire industry.

- (7) The Indian Standards Institution should take up the work of formulating standard specifications for brass lamp holders as early as possible and the industry should assist the Institution in this work. The Institution should obtain the collaboration of the Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, Calcutta, in formulating specifications for porcelain insulators.
- (8) All State Governments and Railway Administrations should be requested to extend their patronage to the indigenous manufacturers of brass lamp holders.
- (9) The West Bengal Government should render necessary assistance to the small scale units in the procurement of raw materials, quality control, technological improvements and the establishment of an inspection organisation.
- (10) It would be desirable for the larger units to make efforts to develop export markets for their products.
- (11) All producers of brass lamp holders should mark their products as "Made in India" both on the lampholders and on the cartons.
- (12) The smaller units who purchase their requirements of brass sheets in the retail market should pool their requirements and place bulk orders in advance with the manufacturers.
- (13) Since the quality and cost of production of brass lamp holders depend in a large measure on the type of brass sheets used in the manufacture, the smaller units should avoid using sheets which do not conform to specifications.

2. Government accept Recommendation (1) and will undertake necessary legislation for continuance of protection.

3. Government also accept Recommendations (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9) and will take suitable steps to implement them as far as possible.

4. The attention of the industry is drawn to Recommendations (10), (11), (12) and (13).

5. Government have given their careful consideration to the recommendation to reduce the rates of duties which were raised to their present levels under the Finance Act, 1954. From the Report as well as other evidence before Government, it appears that the industry is not properly organised. The costs of small-scale producers are also bound to differ considerably from unit to unit. The Industry has, in the past, been sheltered from competition not only through the duty, but also by the restrictions on imports which have been necessitated by balance of payments considerations. With the improvement in the country's foreign exchange position, import restrictions in general are likely to get easier. In the circumstances, Government do not consider that the existing rates of duties on brass lamp holders should be lowered.

6. Apart from the measures outlined above, Government consider that, as a small-scale industry, the manufacturers of brass lamp holders should be given special assistance in marketing their products. It has been brought to the notice of Government that at

present many of the units are not even quoting for supply to Government against tenders issued by the Director General of Supplies and Disposals. As a result, Government have had to pay higher prices while the industry itself does not seem to have benefited from them. Government, therefore, propose to take suitable steps to improve the organisation and marketing methods of this industry and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will pursue the matter further with the interests concerned.

L. K. JHA, Jt. Secy.

